

## REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 9, 2003 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 3). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

### Status of the Claims

Claims 1 to 23 are pending in this application. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

### Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, and 15 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent number 6,411,353 ("Yarita") in view of U.S. Patent number 5,375,043 ("Tokunaga"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The specification of the invention states on page 6, lines 1 through 6 that : "It is an object of the present invention to provide a liquid crystal display device which enables a high quality image display by effectively preventing the occurrence of display irregularity which may be brought about by the reduction of the picture frame of the liquid crystal display device".

Regarding a LCD panel having a narrow frame, the brightness of its corners is lower because the brightness of the end portions of a linear lamp such as a cold cathode fluorescence lamp is lower than the brightness of the middle portion of the lamp disposed in the middle of the LCD. As outlined above, the objective of the invention is to avoid the reduction in brightness at the corners of the LCD ("preventing the occurrence of display irregularity").

The Yarita patent discloses a liquid crystal display device that includes a liquid crystal display element having a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between a pair of upper and lower substrates, a flexible circuit board disposed around a periphery of the liquid crystal display element, an illuminating light source having a line light source, a light guide and a reflector and disposed behind the liquid crystal display element, a metal upper case having a sidewall bent back and a display window, a resin lower case for housing the illuminating light source. The

upper and lower cases are clamped by crimping plural nails formed in the sidewall of the upper case at an outer surface of the lower case after stacking the liquid crystal display element, the flexible circuit board and the illuminating light source between the upper and lower cases. An electrical connection between the upper case and a grounding pattern formed on the flexible circuit board is made by at least one component in chip form having a conductive region and being attached to a portion of the grounding pattern bent over the lower substrate, and a metal tape having one end thereof being interposed between opposing portions of the upper and lower cases which are pressed against each other and the other end thereof being positioned to be pressed against the conductive region of the at least one component. According to the above, the Yarita patent does not have the same objective as the pending application. Further, the LCD disclosed by the Yarita patent does not exhibit a light emission control pattern with a plurality of grooves on a surface of the light guide plate.

The Tokunaga patent discloses is a lighting unit of an indirect type, capable of varying the luminance and color of illumination with respect to a target to be lit, thereby ensuring an effective display of the target, and further capable of using itself as a display unit. The lighting unit comprises a light guide plate having one side fashioned into an uneven surface or a reflective surface; a plurality of light emitting diodes for supplying a light to the light guide plate, the light derived from the diodes being dispersed through the light guide plate; and a control section which controls actions including blinking of the light emitting diodes. At least a part of the diodes is intended to emit a light different in color from that of the others so that the color or blinking of illumination can be arbitrarily varied through the control by means of the control section.

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Tokunaga patent and cannot find any reference therein to a structure for the emission control pattern having a plurality of grooves formed at a corner portion of a surface of the light guide plate.

The Tokunaga patent discloses an LED-type backlight. For such a lamp, it is difficult to observe the lower brightness of the end portion as it can be observed for a linear lamp such a CFL. The Tokunaga patent does not address the same problem as the one addressed by the pending application and does not provide the same solution.

The references either singly or in combination do not disclose all the features contemplated by the pending claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to withdraw the rejection and to pass this case to issue.

Other Matters

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 3 - 6, 8, 10-14 and 16-23. Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, being dependent upon allowable independent claims, and do not wish to amend the claims, as the Examiner suggested on page 5, lines 13 – 15 of the Office Action.

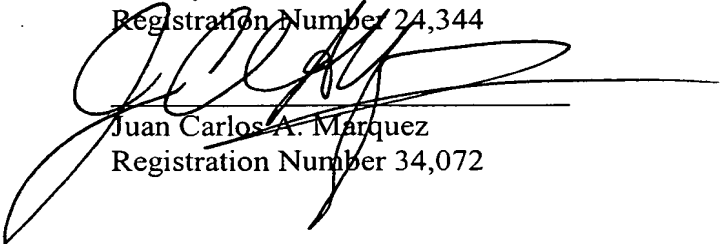
CONCLUSION

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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